

Harston Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

1900 05 24

A Harston mother told the inquest she had care of the child who came from Dr Barnardo's Homes for five month, receiving a weekly allowance for her keep. The stationmaster's son said he was ringing the school bell and saw the little girl. A boy tried to take hold of her and she fell on her face. Before she fell she had a pencil in her hand. After the fall she was crying and he saw her eye bleeding. The schoolmaster said he told him she had a piece of pencil which struck her in the eye when she fell. Her eye looked displaced and he sent her home in company with an older girl. Later she was taken to Addenbrooke's where a piece of slate pencil was removed from the eye. She died Friday morning

1906 10 25

A Harston farmer said that some time ago a young fellow who was working for the Rector was given only the bits of bread that came from the Rectory table, so the villagers called him 'Lazarus'. Later this individual came to work for him and he was verminous. Later the rector had a little boy from an institution in Cambridge and while he was at the Rectory the inhabitants 'tin-kettled' the rector. The rector blamed him for this and wouldn't speak to him in the street, all he does is beg.06 10 25c

1907 03 12

The Green Man at Harston consisted of a tap room, bar, parlour, three bedrooms and small kitchen. It sold half a barrel of draught beer, a dozen bottles of beer and one gallon of spirits a week. There was a club-room in the back yard but few members attended. The stables and outbuildings were in bad repair. There were five licenced houses within 615 paces, including the Coach and Horses, Swan and Pemberton Arms Also Three Horse Shoes, Lt Shelford, Duke of Cumberland Over and Milkmaid Willingham 07 03 12a & b

1907 06 29

The Milkmaid was one of 13 licenced houses in Willingham and they could do away with half of them, magistrates were told. But there were 100 acres of market gardens all round where a great many men and girls were constantly employed and some came to the house for lunch. The trade had increased since the King William was closed and now did over a barrel a week. Also: Marquis of Granby, Woodman's Arms, Claremont, Golden Fleece; Swaffham Prior Anchor, Harston Green Man, Lt Shelford Three Horseshoes, Over Duke of Cumberland, Willingham Milkmaid - details, Isleham Bell, Fen Ditton Pike & Eel. Bassingbourn Tally Ho, 07 06 29 & a

1907 12 17

Hauxton School should be closed to children who have passed the third standard and they must attend Shelford or Harston schools, the Education authority decided in the interests of economy. But parents objected and eight were summoned for not sending their children to school. It meant a walk of a mile-and-a-half, they would get wet and sit in wet things all day as there was no chance of drying them. But the entire school population of Wood Ditton, Croxton and Eltisley had to walk that distance. - 07 12 17 & a

1908 02 07

The Hauxton school controversy was the subject of a public inquiry: it has been closed to older children who have to attend Harston or Shelford schools. Parents have refused to do this and a number of prosecutions have been instituted. Now they have employed a lawyer. The school was built for all standards but now it was likely the average attendance would fall and the council would close it completely. One mother said it was desirable a child should be allowed to go to school when it was four years old. 08 02 07 i & j.

1908 05 12

Cambridge Ladies' Social Cycling Club held 30 runs last year which were not so well attended as before, owing to the unsettled weather. Three invitation runs were arranged to get other cycle clubs to join, and they were well patronised. Successful picnics were given at the Swan House Tea Gardens,

Harston and at Whittlesford. A prize will be awarded to the lady who attended the most runs during the season. 08 05 12

1910 05 20

Harston grocer Herbert Wm Burrows bankruptcy – had come from London

1910 10 21

A fire involving the loss of seven stacks occurred at River Farm, Haslingfield which has just been taken over by Messrs Chivers. It was noticed by Mr Hays of Harston who jumped from his trap and tried to tread out the flames before rushing into the village to give the alarm. While some men worked hard to save the stacks, two horse keepers got ten valuable horses from the stables while others removed valuable farm implements. The glow could be seen for many miles round and attracted crowds of people from neighbouring villages. Firemen cycled over from Cambridge and the steamer, which arrived after a fast run, was soon got to work. But for the splendid efforts of the villagers the whole farm would have been destroyed. 10 10 21

1910 11 11

'The People' bioscope car arrived at the Three Horse Shoes Inn, Harston, on Monday evening and gave an excellent exhibition of pictures with gramophone selections. There was a large attendance & the military scenes especially aroused the enthusiasm of the local Territorials and Harston Boy Scouts. Those who cared to do so were, by the courtesy of the manager of the car, enabled to listen to further gramophone selections until closing hour when hearty cheers were given for 'The People' car. 10 11 11f

1910 11 25

The late Mr Alfred Simper was a well-known rope-maker who formerly carried on business at Great Shelford. For the past 21 years he lived at Rope Walk, New Street and visited all the markets around Cambridge. He had a stall in the Corn Exchange for 20 years and was highly respected by all with whom he came in contact. Mr Simper was a prominent Cambridge Christadelphian and the funeral service was conducted according to the custom of the Christadelphian community by Dr W.J. Young of Harston. 10 11 25f

1911 01 06

Mr F.O. Chapman, commissioned by the Canadian Government is making a short tour of local villages calling attention to the enormous and almost limitless field which the Dominion holds out to British labour. He opened his campaign at Harston where he told hearers that if they were doing well over here they would be foolish to go to Canada. But if there were any who were not receiving sufficient return for their energies they would do well to try their fortunes in the colonies. His lecture was illustrated by a very fine series of photographic views shown by means of the oxy-hydrogen limelight lantern apparatus 11 01 06

1911 02 24

When an eleven-year-old schoolboy appeared in court the vicar of Harston testified that his daughter had been standing in front of the porch at the vicarage with his grandson in her arms. A heavy hoop came bounding against them with great force, bounced over a rockery and struck the lad in the back. There was a funeral going on at the time and he saw boys outside the gate. This sort of thing had been going on for two years. One lad had taken hold of the perambulator and tried to throw it over. This child should be removed for the benefit of the community at large. Magistrates were reluctant to convict but told the parents to ensure their son behaved properly 11 02 24b

1913 01 24

Harston & District Liberal Association formed

1913 02 07

Harston Liberal association inaugural meeting

1913 03 14

Licensing sessions - Over Black Horse – Frederick Webster, farmer employed a number of men who used the house; the yard was a great convenience for traffic, Sow & Pigs. Harston Pemberton Arms – people left horses when went away by train. Swavesey Little Rose. Dry Drayton Five Bells. Willingham Black Lion. Cottenham Red Lion. Girton White Horse

1913 04 04

Harston drowning – don't wait for police

1913 04 25

A Pembroke undergraduate, the son of the editor of the Daily Mail, was killed in a shocking accident near Harston when his new Bedford car was in collision with a light spring cart. Both vehicles were badly damaged. The pony was forced over the bonnet, one of its hind legs being jammed between the steering column and the side of the car and the shaft of the cart was driven right through the unfortunate motorist's head like a lance. A half-sovereign which was found in his waistcoat pocket was broken in three pieces. The occupants of the cart were returning from Haslingfield with a number of ducklings, some of which were also killed 13 04 25

1913 05 09 CIP

Harston fatal motor smash inquest

1914 05 22

Daily Occurrence, — An interesting little scene takes place daily at Harston. A dog comes out of his kennel and waits while a family hen produces her contribution to the provisions of the Three Horse-shoes inn and coolly walks in and takes his nap beside the egg until one or other of the family fetches it in, daring all other hens to enter his house, although they watch their chance. This is an everyday occurrence and very amusing. – 14 05 22

1914 06 05

Nest Beside Door,—A blue cap has made her nest and hatched five young ones beside the door of a cottage inhabited by one of the oldest men in the village (Harston), paying no attention to the people passing in and out – 14 06 05

1914 06 26 p10

Harston rifle club p12

1914 09 11

Harston men bought army cycles

1914 10 09

Military roads - Stretham to Soham, one of four to allow different armies to move from west to east at same time without going through Cambridge. The first from Potton though Harston to Whittlesford and Pampisford and on to London Road near Hildersham.

1914 10 16

Harston station danger children

1914 10 30

Recruiting, Harston

1914 12 18

A fountain in the ditch by the side of the main road at Harston was originally intended to supply six houses adjacent, but two cottages on the other side of the road and some cottages further away have

been in the habit of obtaining water from it. The supply has now failed but the erection of a pump would probably produce a good supply

1918 12 11

40 cases a day.—Wordsworth Grove Hospital, Cambridge, has been fortunate in having the Newnham gymnasium lent to them for their massage and electrical department, a large, airy bright building where between 30 and 40 cases a day are treated—men in hospital in the mornings, and out-patients and discharged soldiers in the afternoons from Swavesey, Newton, Harston, Duxford and outlying villages. The treatments are massage, galvanism and Faradism, radiant heat, hot air and ionisations and exercise. The work here, as in all other Red Cross Hospitals in the county, is carried on under the supervision of Miss Laven, who has been untiring in her efforts on behalf of the wounded ever since the outbreak of war.

1919 03 12

Licences referred: do not renew Butcher's Arms, White Swan in Castle St, Corn Exchange Inn and beer houses White Swan Staffordshire St, Grafton Arms, Dog & Pheasant, Bird in Hand, Salmon on Newmarket Road; also Five Bells Cherry Hinton, Chequers at Harston and Bell, Histon – 19 03 12a
Bus service allegations of inadequacy, irregularity and overcrowding; interview with J.B. Walford of Ortona with details, including wartime when ran buses to Ministry of Munitions works at Hauxton and Grantchester – 19 03 12b

1920 01 07

Rats Killed, Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631). Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225), Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186). Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236). Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422). Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn (442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313). Shudy Camps (1.38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105) Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1920 04 07

Harston war memorial dedicated

1921 07 06

Harston Manor theatricals – photos – 21 07 06b

1922 05 26

The report went on to state that a shortage of water was experienced at Harston and Great Wilbraham; the supply was depleted by the pumping at the Cambridge Water Company's new works and by the drought. The latter difficulty had now been overcome by the Company fixing four standpipes in the village. Most of the wells at Little Wilbraham failed during the drought. Considerable discussion arose as to the condition of the polluted brook at Histon. It was stated that the people of Histon were living in a "stink pot"

1923 05 22

At Harston on Whit-Monday the past met the present and the sun shone most of the time to celebrate the occasion. The first thing one noticed was the inevitable fair ground the village green and that in itself was not very remarkable but a casual glance the roundabouts and the swing boats revealed an extraordinary blaze of gay colours. Closer inspection discovered ladies in the becoming dress and high pointed hats of the 15th century, maids-in-waiting, pages, an odd monk or two and a host of villagers in trunk and hose all enjoying the fun of the fair

1925 03 14

Five Harston lads were each fined 2s.6d. for playing football in the highway. PC Carlton said there was only a small piece of grass near the White Swan and this was unfit for football purposes. During the summer cricket was allowed in the Park, and at one time Mr Arthur Hurrell let the boys play football in the meadow, but owing to some wilful damage being done he withdrew these facilities.

1925 07 06

As from July 1st all policemen will live rent free, the Chief Constable reported. The need for a police house at Harston was very urgent because the owner of the house which the policeman now occupied had been waiting until the officer moved before he could get married. The new Cambridge town planning scheme was bringing a road from Cherry Hinton to the Ditton and Horningsea road and they wanted a site on the Cambridge side of the new road. At Burwell the police house was complete, with the exception of the water supply

1925 10 19

Mr T. Musgrave Francis said they had been in search of a site at Harston for the provision of a policeman's house for a long time and had not been able to get one. Eventually they were offered one outside the village and, whilst the price was high, they felt they must accept it. Now, however, Mr Arthur Hurrell had offered the Chief Constable a most suitable site as a gift to the county. They could not have a better site and he moved a vote of thanks.

1926 01 30

"A general feeling of dissatisfaction at Harston as to the supervision exercised in quite an epidemic of scarlet fever in the village led to some questioning at Chesterton Rural Council. A child had been sent home too early from the Isolation Hospital and infected other members of the family who were now suffering from scarlet fever. Provided there were no traces of peeling or discharges from the ears and nose after six weeks isolation it was considered safe to allow a patient to be discharged. The parent had kissed the child on the station platform when it was discharged from the Hospital and did not realise how dangerous that was.

1926 09 28

We understand that Sir W. Graham Greene, K.C.B., of Harston, has been approached as to his standing as an Independent candidate for the vacancy on the County Council. He has had an interest in Harston since 1893 but official engagements at the Admiralty and Ministry of Munitions have prevented him hitherto from passing as much time in the County as he would have liked. His sisters, Miss Mary and Miss Helen Greene are well known for their public and philanthropic work and the new hall at Harston is largely due to their efforts

1927 06 27

An inspection of the River Rhee from Guilden Morden to Cambridge showed banks were much overgrown and a number of trees had fallen into the stream. There was only one foot of water in the river in places. There are two mills in use, at Guilden Morden and Grantchester. One at Harston had not been used for a year and at Barrington no work had been possible for some years and the channel was blocked up. The river at Shelford was in a most dilapidated state

1927 07 25

Councillors said that not allowing village fairs to be held on the grass at the side of main roads was an "autocratic measure" designed to safeguard "wretched motorists" and restrict the liberties of the subject. At Harston a large crowd of caravans gathered at the side of the road at a very dangerous curve where there was a lot of traffic. The fair was on the very verge of the road and it was impossible for any vehicle, especially at high speed, to pass without danger to those attending the fair. There were three constables on duty but even so the danger to children was very great. The proprietors of roundabouts had the option of a field but would not go there as long as they were able to go on to the roadside.

1929 11 23

The parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Health visited Stapleford for the stone-laying of the 500th council house erected by the Rural District Council. It might be a good thing for Ministers of the Crown to come down to such places and see the conditions under which they were working. The former Housing Officer, Mr Bunnett, had been responsible for practically all the houses but the red brick corners on the present scheme were added by his successor. If they adopted every suggestion made there would be some very funny houses by the time they were finished. The party then went on to Harston where they viewed a new type of cottages built of concrete and timber with an old-world decoration made by pricking the plaster when wet, giving them a distinctive appearance.

1929 12 10

A Fowlmere baker, Frank Perry, had a narrow escape when his van overturned in a collision at Harston. He was delivering bread and just turning into a driftway when an Alvis touring car struck the front of the van which was twisted completely round and landed on its side. Its front axle was torn completely off. Bread and pastries were scattered all over the road as the doors burst and the driver was imprisoned in his cab. Beyond a bruised knee and cut hand he was uninjured. Alderman Webber who was motoring by, assisted by an A.A. Scout, directed traffic past the damaged vehicle.

1930 07 22

At Harston the flow of water from springs had greatly decreased; fountains were only trickling and one had ceased to run. At Barrington one of the chief fountains had run dry and other villages were beginning to suffer. A deep bore had been sunk at the cement works; after extensive pumping at the works the village water supply dropped off and when the works shut down for a week the water improved.

1931 01 16

Elijah Lawrence learned the trade of blacksmith under his elder brother, James Lawrence of Harston and took over the smithy at Trumpington where he worked for nearly 50 years. He was a keen and competent tradesman, shoeing a considerable number of horses before advancing years caused him to transfer the business to his son-in-law. He had grown more feeble but a fortnight previously was driving himself in his pony-cart. 31 01 16d

1931 06 12

A baker told the bankruptcy court that he started at Harston in 1928 and made a living the first year. He bought a motor cycle combination hoping to increase his business but it broke down. Two other bakers had been canvassed from Cambridge so he took premises in Burleigh Street. There were five other bakers within 100 yards and he hoped to make a 'do' against them. But what with rent, wages and bus fares from Harston he became insolvent. 31 06 12j

1933 03 12

Few villages with a population of 800 are capable of producing Gilbert and Sullivan operas in their own village hall, entirely unaided. In the last three years Harston Musical Society has produced 'The Mikado', 'Gondoliers' and 'Yeomen of the Guard' very successfully. This year it will be 'Ruddigore', and thanks to the advent of the electricity supply at Harston they will have a special lighting installation recommended by Mr Terence Gray of the Festival Theatre. 32 03 12

1933 12 19

Harston grocer, Gatward, failure – 33 12 19

1934 03 08

A plastering contractor said he'd been told there was "a bag of money for plasterers in Cambridge" and had come from Sutton Bridge with £900 to his credit. There was a strike on at the time and he started on 20 houses in Huntingdon Road for Mr John Brignell then contracted to plaster 212 houses in Kendal Way. But another workman's strike arose – a strike that never ceased. His last contract was for houses at Harston, Eversden and Coldham's Lane. He attributed his failure to other people's bankruptcy and bad debts. 34 03 08

1934 04 25

The first meeting of the new Chesterton Rural District Council was held in the County Hall. New councillors were told they had to consider problems such as water sewage, dust collection and lighting. They discussed a grant towards cleaning out a Harston pond. It was a 'disputable pond' – the village made use of it but it was private property. 34 04 25

1934 12 20

Cambridge and March continue to spread out along the main thoroughfares and 'ribbon development' has already disfigured roads in Quy, Girton, Harston and Chatteris. The County Council is primarily a road authority and its objection is from the traffic standpoint rather than from the aesthetic point of view. To retain the beauty of the countryside frontage control much be applied to all roads, the Cambridge Council for the Preservation of Rural England urged. 34 12 20

1936 02 05

Premier Travel Ltd has been formed to take over the services of Royal Blue Coaches of Chesterton Road and the Harston and District Motor Services. Managing director, E.A. Lainson, says there is a definite need for a good independent transport company. They will offer special excursions to Hunstanton, Southend and Yarmouth, run motor tours to Europe all year round and also conduct a travel agency for steamship, motor coach and aeroplane services. 36 02 05

1936 04 01

The ditch in Harston High Street ran in front of a good many cottages and into it the sewage matter from a large number of houses emptied. At times the odour was so unbearable that people cannot have their windows open. In places the ditch passed under culverts and the flow was interrupted causing a bad stench, especially near the Coach and Horses who complained they had lost a great deal of custom. People living in the houses had a great deal of trouble with their throats and were not well, councillors were told. 36 04 01a

1936 07 30

Harston flooding, Prickwillow and Sutton Gault bridges, musk rats, Quy Rye Ditch – 36 07 30e

1936 09 30

Chesterton RDC discussed the Harston water scheme where there had been a breakdown following a collapse of clay into the bore. It was now cleared up. But Coun. Ilsley complained of the quality of the water: it came through discoloured, a grey colour. It was impossible to see through it and had a scum on the top. However the question of charges were 'much more cloudy' than the water. It had been intended to charge people within 200 feet of the standpipes but there had to be a satisfactory supply before this could be done. 36 09 30 & a

1938 02 05

Three Horse Shoes, Harston granted licence – had tea room – 38 02 05c

1938 03 07

The landlord of the Old English Gentleman at Harston said trade had increased and 101 new houses had been built nearby. There were plans for alterations with a car park for 30 cars. It had a slate club paying money in sick pay and a darts club where players were accompanied by female relatives who did not drink beer but asked for 'short drinks' he was not allowed to sell. He had to refuse the sale of four or five bottles of gin or whisky on a Saturday. But the licensee of the Coach and Horses said there were already four fully licensed premises for a population of 1,000. If you pooled all their takings in wine and spirits no tenant would get a living – brewers only allowed a margin of sixpence on a bottle of whisky. 38 03 07a

1939 10 21

The Cambridge School of Flying started in 1916 and was open to those applying for commissions in the Royal Flying Corps for training as air pilots. A field was rented from Mr Lilley, a farmer in the old world village of Harston. Soon afterwards only cadets entering the R.F.C. were admitted. After the serious side was finished for the day it was natural that young men of high spirits should have an occasional 'rag'. They removed the sign from the village pub and fixed it to the gate of the church. An investigating policeman found his bicycle missing; it was found in the branches of the highest tree. The villagers were very tolerant and forgiving, friendships were formed and some found life's partners in this romantic old village 39 10 21b & c & d

1941 06 20

Old-time names of villages.— The recent paragraph giving the old-time names of several Cambridge streets has led a correspondent to compile from old books and documents a list of some old-time village names (says Watchman). Most of these old names, it may be said, are taken from the "Cambridgeshire" section of "Magna Britannia," a valuable work compiled by the Rev. David Lysons and Mr. Samuel Lysons and published in the year 1808. The present-day name is given first, the old name following it in parentheses; Abington Pigotts (Abington in the Clay). Babraham (Baburham, Badburham, and Badburham), Burrough Green (Burgh), Coton (Cotes), Croydon (Crawden), Fowlmere (Foulmire and Fulmere), Harston (Harlston), East Hatley (Castell Hatley), Hatley St. George (Hungry Halley), Hauxton (Hawkstpn), Cherry Hinton (Hinton), Oakington (Hokington), Isleham (Iselham), Horningsea (Hornsey), Kirtling (Chartelinge. Catlige and Catlage). Pampisford (Pamps-worth), Quy or Stow-cum-Quy (Stow-Qui), Thriplow (Triplow). There are, of course, very much older and more peculiar names to some villages, notably those in the Domesday Book, compiled in the time of William the Conqueror and finished in the summer of 1086. The above old names, however, are some which appear to have been in use in comparatively modern times, or, say, 133 years ago.

1942 01 02

Death of Mr H.B. Hart. Cambs Cricket Club lost a valuable old servant and one of its most active members by the death of Mr Harold B. Hart, of Manor Farm Hauxton. Mr. Hart, who died on Monday at the age of 54, had been in failing health for some time. He first played cricket for Cambs in 1913, and continued till 1935. Elected joint secretary in 1920, he was also appointed captain in 1927 and for some seasons combined these offices. He worked exceptionally hard in the lean period following the resumption of cricket after the last war, and had the satisfaction of seeing these energetic efforts rewarded by the building up of a useful side. A fine batsman in his younger days, he also played for Camden and Royston. He was also associated for many years with Royston Town Football Club of which he was captain, and earned a big reputation as a centre-half. Mr Hart had been at Manor Farm for about three years. Before that he lived for 19 years at Harston, where he was bailiff to the late Sir Charles Walston

1942 06 26

Col. Henry William Hurrell, J.P., D.L., Alderman of the Cambridgeshire County Council, Vice-Chairman of the Cambridge County Quarter Sessions and Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee. Col. Hurrell was a member of a well-known county family, who for several generations have been connected as landowners and occupiers in the parishes of Newton, Harston, Madingley and Great Shelford. His father, the late Mr. Henry Hurrell, was a former occupant of Madingley Hall, where Col. Harding now resides. Col. Hurrell was born in 1857.

1942 08 21

Police changes, — Police Sergeant Squires, after being stationed at Great Wilbraham for nine years, has, on promotion, been transferred to Soham, being succeeded in the village by P.c. Lane from Harston.

1943 02 26

Diamond Wedding—Mr. and Mrs. J. Collins, of Button End, Harston, on February 18 attained their 60th wedding day anniversary, They were married at All Saints' Church Shepreth, by the late Rev.

Mr. Mines. The family is widely known and respected in the surrounding district. There were 10 children, eight of whom are living, one son being killed in the last war. There are 29 grandchildren.

1943 06 11

New Stationmaster. — The L.N.E.R. announces that Mr, H. W. Scoffield, stationmaster at Harston, has been appointed stationmaster at Shelford.

1943 03 31

Presentation to doctor. An informal little ceremony, probably unique in the history of Cambridgeshire, took place at Harston on Sunday afternoon, when representatives from 22 villages gathered to make a presentation to Dr. W. J. Young, in celebration of his 75th birthday and 44 years of medical practice in the district. The ceremony took place at his house, where brief, but moving, tributes to Dr. and Mrs. Young were paid by some of the guests, and on behalf of nearly 1,000 Cambridgeshire residents from the villages, Dr. Young was presented with several gifts and an inscribed address. Afterwards tea was served, complete with an iced birthday cake with 75 candles.

1948 04 10

If farmers from all the countries of the world had been present at a dinner given by Pest Control Ltd at the University Arms Hotel, Cambridge, there would have been universal satisfaction at the speech by the Company's managing director. For he announced the complete overpowering of one of the farmers' most deadly enemies - weeds. "Being a pioneering firm working in Cambridge we have applied a pioneering role in the developing of selective weedkillers," he said. They showed a film "Gentle Menace", taken at Harston.

1948 05 19

When a proposal to abolish the speed limit at Harston for a distance of 1,104 yards south from the "Old English Gentleman" was discussed at the County Council strong opposition was expressed. Ald Stubbs said the traffic passing through Harston was a positive danger. Counc Jackson thought the real trouble was the shortage of police personnel which prevented the enforcement of speed limits

1950 08 25

In 1945 Chesterton R.D.C. granted permission for the erection of five pairs of houses on the junction of Newton Rd, Hauxton. The application was approved by Cambridge Borough Council who were the inter-development authority under the draft planning scheme. The County Council now wish to stop further development to prevent the joining up of the villages of Harston & Hauxton and bring to an end the straggling of ribbon development along these roads, an inquiry was told

1951 05 29

A sale of considerable interest at Harston attracted a large company. The period residence, Harston Manor, with 15 acres and two cottages realised £8,000 after keen competition. The Manor Home Farm of 84 acres was knocked down at £5,800. A pair of cottages in Church Street realised £300 and an adjoining pair were sold for the exceptional figure of £390.

1951 12 21

Miss Mary Charlotte Green of Harston House has died. Aunt to the distinguished author, Graham Greene, she was well-known for her deep interest in village activities. Her main occupation was painting which she continued right up to recent weeks, the paint on some of her works being still wet. She could often be seen painting on Coe Fen, even when there was frost on the ground. She exhibited at the Royal Academy and was President of the Cambridge Drawing Society. She also published a number of poems, reminiscences and one-act plays and was a keen horticulturist

1951 12 28

A Cambridgeshire firm is to do a first-time-ever-in-England job shortly when one of its helicopters will lay an electric cable. Pest Control of Harston have a fleet of helicopters for agricultural spraying operations and the

Midlands Electricity Board has asked for their assistance in spanning a thousand-foot-wide valley in the Malvern Hills. Similar operations have been carried out in America

1952 03 27

When Chesterton RDC acquired land to erect 2,000 council houses in "necklace villages" in order to accommodate the "over-spilled" population of Cambridge they should obtain sufficient land to allow for private building as well, said a councillor. Council houses were subsidised to the extent of £35 12s. and building private houses would ease the financial burden. The sewerage of the parishes of Milton and Great and Little Shelford was already in and they should be the first villages to be developed. Fulbourn, Stapleford, Harston, Barton and Coton were also on the priority list.

1952 08 07

Cambridge Bonniest Baby Exhibition was held in the Guildhall and attracted a fairly substantial entry of 99. The judges were not judging in the usual way, weighing the children, examining limbs etc but were looking for the bonniest baby of the respective classes. In fact it was rather a babies' beauty competition. Prizewinners were: six months and under – Joy Carter, seven-twelve months – Linda Moxon, 13-18 months – Martin Carter, 19 months to two years – Anna Taylor. Winning twins were Dorothy Anne and Mary Elizabeth Arbon of Harston.

1953 02 11

Pest Control of Harston appealed against the refusal of planning permission for an extension of their works. The County planners said they do not think it in the interest of Cambridgeshire that there should be an increase of major industry. It was their duty to protect the beauty and well-being of the county. The production site of the factory should never have been started at Hauxton at all and it must not be allowed to expand. There had been complaints of unpleasant smells and discoloration and pollution of the river

1953 05 01

Thirteen attractive young ladies paraded before judges at the Rex Ballroom, Cambridge for the title of 'Miss Cambridgeshire'. Dressed in gold net over taffeta with black Miss Eileen Gatwood of Histon was proclaimed the winner. She has already gained the titles of 'Miss Pampisford' and 'Miss Harston'. Second was Mrs Maureen Oliver who was 'Miss Manchester 1952' and third Miss Janet Waller who has been 'Miss Hunstanton'. The winner was presented with a three-guinea cheque and the runners up with boxes of chocolates by the promoter, Mr Billy Pearce.

1953 07 22

Pest Control's scheme of re-development at Harston which includes an administration block, extensions to the chemical and engineering stores and a drum-filling establishment, has been allowed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. It will enable them to rebuild the factory as appropriate to a scientific industry located close to Cambridge, with contemporary architecture & give their hard-working workpeople and staff in the chemical works the facilities and amenities they deserve

1954 01 21

Cambridgeshire is not a county where woodland areas predominate and the preservation of outstanding trees has long been the concern of the County Council. They have made a tree preservation order covering the double avenue of elms which runs for two miles south of Wimpole Park, one of the finest in England. In recent years some of the trees have been affected by disease but most are in good condition. An avenue of beech trees of great distinction at Hildersham Hall and a line of horse chestnuts at Harston together with trees in the grounds of the Manor House are also covered.

1954 08 25

Messrs Kerridge of Cambridge staged a combined horticultural show and sports day on Pye's Sports ground when 100 children and 200 adults gathered from all parts of the Eastern Counties. A varied

programme of races continued throughout the afternoon and there were also sideshows, including bowling for a pig. There were pony rides arranged by the Harston Riding School, a chair-o-plane roundabout and various other attractions including a comic cricket match. Mr P.D. Kenzie of Royston took eleven first prizes at the horticultural show

1954 10 16

The Minister of Education has refused to allow funding for a new school for Milton, but one new classroom will be built. There will also be building at Babraham, Histon and Cheveley while Harston is growing fast and a pre-fabricated classroom would be constructed. The position at Kennett shows how quickly a development plan was out-dated. The roll at this single-roomed school has risen from 14 to 27 and would continue to increase. Negotiations would start to purchase the premises now held on lease and plans for an extension prepared.

1955 09 14

Proposals to close Foxton railway station whilst keeping Harston open – which was used even less – drew protests from Councillors. During September 60 passengers used the station each week but this was a bad month for travel and prohibitive fares were the reason for the small number of passengers. Alternative bus services were far from adequate and there would be no prospect of halting the drift from the countryside to the town if the station closed. There was a great deal of development planned, which would result in a growth of population.

1955 10 10

Mr C. Gatward has won his appeal to continue making concrete roof tiles at Button End Harston. He had purchased moulding machines from a manufacturer who had gone out of business and as a number of houses in Cambridge were roofed with these tiles there was a constant demand for replacement. Maximum output was 4,000 tiles weekly and there would be no dust and little noise. The county planners said that the unsightliness of stacked tiles and heaps of raw materials would be detrimental to residents and the road was unsuitable for industrial traffic

1959 03 28

A new Village College may be provided at Shelford to take children from Stapleford, Harston and Hauxton, providing a compact area with economic transport arrangements. It would avoid the expansion of Sawston and Melbourn village colleges when the school leaving age is raised to 16. But it is not included in the Development Plan and it is not thought likely there would be any considerable increase in population. 59 03 28

1959 05 15

In these days of mass production it is refreshing to find that craftsmanship still thrives in Cambridgeshire. Mr H. Lawrence of Harston, following in the family's footsteps as village blacksmith, enjoys his craft so much that he has used his spare evenings making a fine pair of wrought iron gates which now adorn his private residence. Other examples of his art may be seen in the vicarage ground. His business has been established for upwards of 100 years and is one of the oldest in the district. 59 05 15b

1960 03 05

Harston youth club meets in the village hall and has 145 members. More would like to join but have to prove a qualification of residence. One week the Cambridge bus arrived almost full with city youngsters who wanted to spend the evening there; they had to be told that things could not be run in that way. There is a canteen which sells soft drinks and tea, coffee and snacks, table tennis and table games and a police officer teaches boxing. The principal activity is pop dancing for the club has a gramophone and a skiffle group. But if all the youngsters want to do is to prop up the walls, talk to one another and smoke then this is a legitimate and proper thing for a club to fulfil, says the Vicar who organises it. 60 03 05

1960 04 11

The Rev Hugh Mansfield-Williams who is leaving Harston and Hauxton after six years will be remembered for sitting by the roadside on Poppy Day to collect money from his parishioners for the church restoration fund and for his work for the youth of the villages by the formation of a successful youth club 60 04 11

1961 04 01

Nearly 200 people from Cambridge people set out on the Wethersfield to London Ban-the-Bomb march. They joined eighteen hundred marchers who had stayed overnight near Finchingfield where the two-mile long column assembled on the tiny village green. Amongst them was 85 year old Clara Rackham who was on her fourth march and hoped to walk to Braintree. Her only luggage was a straw bag containing a flask and sandwiches. The well-known marchers, the Baker family from Harston took six of their seven children, leaving their four-year-old daughter at home. Mr Robert Davies, who contested the Cambridgeshire by-election recently, was also on the march. He intends to walk all the way 61 04 01a

1961 09 13

The Army Emergency Reserve has not enjoyed the limelight of other Territorial Army units. Its training obligations are not so onerous and the bounty much higher, at £75. But volunteers are liable to immediate recall for service in any part of the world, as happened during the Suez crisis. The local unit, 215 Port Workshop, is drawn from the Cambridge, Newmarket, Norwich and Ipswich area under its Commanding Officer, Captain C. Wilson of Harston. All the personnel are tradesmen; in action they would follow the assault infantry in to keep the beaches clear and traffic moving 61 09 13a

1962 06 23

Two village railway stations may be closed by British Railways. Only five people a day use Black Bank station on the main March line; the buildings are gradually subsiding into the fenland soil leaving the former stationmaster's house in a poor condition. And only eight people a day use the 11 stopping trains at Harston station; by closing it they could save nearly £700 a year. 62 06 23

1962 09 26

The new register of buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest' features houses, pubs and even mile stones. The Ministry thinks most of the parish churches are worth maintaining as are some village halls and windmills. The list includes a dovecote in Church Street, Comberton, The Three Tuns pub at Fen Drayton – once the Old Guildhall, Chiver's windmill at Impington, the obelisk at St Margaret's Mount, Harston and a statue in the grounds of Fulbourn Manor 62 09 26a

1964 12 23

Fire gutted a house at Harston Hill, destroying antique furniture stored in one of the rooms. It had been bought, together with the mill, by a Haslingfield builder who was restoring it. Flames reached 20 ft above the blazing house before its timbers collapsed. Firemen pulled down the walls of the upper floors and they were too dangerous to leave. But they successfully saved the mill itself. 64 08 14a
Harston speed limit to be raised to 40 mph – 64 12 23

1966 04 29

Railway stations to be sold at Six Mile Bottom, Sutton (pic), Bluntisham, Haddenham, Harston, Wilburton, Stretham, Dullingham, Isleham, Longstanton – 66 04 29a

1969 05 01

Tanner and Hall roofers move from Hills Road railway siding to new offices at Harston, formed in 1953 – 69 05 01, 01a

1972 12 08

The future of Fisons is based firmly on research said the group's chief executive when he opened the agrochemical division's new laboratory complex at Harston. The new buildings comprising a laboratory block and a product applications department will eventually house 80 research, chemical

engineering and analytical staff. Fisons Agrochemical Division employ 600 people at Harston of whom about half are headquarters administrative staff

1973 08 03

The story of an old church and a redundant pulpit will unfold its final chapter at Shepreth parish church on Sunday. Two years ago the Vicar visited Hignam Rectory near Gloucester where he noticed a Caroline pulpit standing in the hall. It came from the redundant church of nearby Lassington and they didn't know what to do with it. Mr Breay suggested they give it to Shepreth church and it was eventually agreed. The expense of restoring and installing it was borne by Mr Percy Austin of Harston in memory of his wife. The pulpit and its delicate carving has been expertly restored by Cecil Adams, a local man

1979 07 13

The dawn-to-dusk routine of working on a farm 60 years ago was recalled by a Harston man, Alfred Stittle. When he joined the Hays family farm it was a slower pace of life. "I started as a lad earning 6d a day and did thistling and harvesting. Then my wages went up to 29s 3d when I became responsible for looking after the horses. There was a lot of tiring, back-aching work and the hours were long. Now the machines have taken over and we don't have the hard physical side. We get a lot more money but there isn't the same friendliness or contentment", he said.

1979 12 06

Villagers at Harston, Hauxton and Foxton were spellbound as they watched a swarm of unidentified flying objects dodging around the sky but the entertainment turned to fear when a massive UFO hovered low past the village pub where the regulars called in the police. People hid away indoors rather than face the brilliant flashing lights and others drove off the road to avoid being under the flight paths. Police say there was no local flying and an astronomer said that there had recently been a number of reports of unusual lights in the sky, though nothing like these

1980 01 11

Reports of a UFO which held Harston villagers spellbound have been received from other parts of the world. A researcher who investigated the phenomenon says they appear to be genuine descriptions of an unknown technology. Other reports have been received locally. Desmond January, a Cambridge estate agent, said he watched a line of three white lights which he thought at first were helicopters, but there was no noise and one shot away at right angles up into the sky. Another resident of Hauxton reported something similar that evening while on New Years Day a lady described seeing a dark cylindrical object pass over her home in Hills Road, Cambridge. The following day two teenagers at Girton told of a light 'burning like magnesium ribbon'

1980 01 24

A cat-lover who has lived in a derelict pre-war bus for the last 10 years says she is being driven mad trying to find a proper home. She shares the converted double-decker with her cats at Button End, Harston. It has no electricity, no running water, no sanitation; the roof and sides are collapsing and water pours in when it rains. Because of the damp she is unable to live in the lower deck and the upper one is lit by oil lamps. For warmth and cooking she uses a small paraffin heater. She says her six cats have been persistently ill. Things were not so bad when she first bought the bus: "It was really quite sweet but then it suddenly started to go to pot after one rainy winter", she said.

1980 10 15

Harston church is to get a new weather vane, six months after its old one collapsed. The new one, in the shape of a heron, is made of aluminium on a wrought-iron frame and will stand on the little turret of the church. It was designed by the vicar's wife, Marian Allen, a professional artist, and was made by a craftsman near Wimpole. There was no particular reason for choosing a heron other than there were several of them on the river.

1983 08 25

Harston village hall celebrates its 60th anniversary in the knowledge that it is the best-kept hall in Cambridgeshire. More than 100 were judged on outside appearance, condition of car parks, signposts and the fabric of the buildings. Credit was given to the Cambridgeshire Community Action Project whose members had repainted it. 83 08 25 p5

1983 09 24

The landlord of the Wheatsheaf at Harston is doing a roaring trade selling what he says are 'magic mushrooms' – not knowing that if they are genuine they contain a mind-bending drug similar to LSD. He got them from a farmhand and says they are selling like hot cakes. After a News article his business mushroomed – but it appears they may just be the ordinary kind after all. 83 09 24 p1 83 09 26 p3

1984 09 03

Nearly 30 years of digging, planting and cultivating have produced one of the finest council house gardens in South Cambridgeshire for retired boilerman Robert Harrowing. His garden in Queens Close, Harston, has been his pride and joy since he moved there in 1956. He produces dozens of varieties of flowers, fruit and vegetable which so impressed the judges they voted his plot "best-kept small garden" this year. 84 09 03

1985 09 07

Harston enclosure riots 1797 – 85 09 07

1985 10 01

When pub tenants Brian and Jean Smith moved not only did they pack their furniture but they took the darts team with them. The unusual move came when the Greene King brewery announced that it was to close the 400-year-old Coach and Horses in Harston, which Brian and Jean had run for the last two-and-a-half years. But they were offered the tenancy of the Three Horse Shoes on the other side of the road. So after serving their last pint at the Coach, they reopened just opposite. And as the Horse Shoes didn't have a darts or quiz team they followed them across 85 10 01

1985 10 09

Cherished memories of boyhood holidays have prompted world-famous author, Graham Greene, to help with Harston village church appeal fund. The celebrated novelist, who often used to visit his uncle at Harston House in the school holidays and has written about the village in his short stories, donated a prized first edition of one of his books inscribed with a personal tribute. The 15th-century church needs repairs to the roof and walls which will cost £108,000. 85 10 09

1985 10 30

The Old Rectory at Fulbourn was originally built in 1886 for a rector whose family included 17 children. Consequently it boasts a large amount of space with 1,250 square feet of outbuildings set in almost an acre of garden. This has now become the headquarters of Sibley Robinson who specialise in designs for civil, structural, mechanical and building engineering. They have worked on Harston Mill Research Centre for Cambridge Interactive Systems 85 10 30a & b

1985 11 02

People of Little Shelford and Harston have spent £3,000 to repair a magnificent obelisk which presides over open fields near Harston. However the man it commemorates appears to have left no mark in history. Gregory Wale died in 1739. He was a Justice of the Peace, Deputy Lieutenant, county treasurer and Conservator of the River Cam. The memorial says he lived an advocate for liberty, was an agreeable companion, faithful friend and a useful member of society. But it remains a mystery why such a splendid monument should be erected to so unremarkable a man 85 11 02

1986 12 04

Harston recreation ground opens – 86 12 04

1987 01 02

After 46 years work at a Harston nursery Mr Len Warren – and a faithful cat called Tom – are both retiring. The inseparable pair will be leaving after a friendship which has bloomed over 15 years. Every day Tom, born at the nurseries, follows Len around the greenhouses and even meets him for work in the morning. Len started at Harvey and Sons Nurseries in the High Street when he was 14 and has grown everything from spring bulbs to radishes. Now he will enjoy the good life in his own large garden 87 01 02

1987 05 07

Three years ago Harston Mill was a stinking derelict building that had been abandoned by its animal feed-producing owners with an assortment of odd sheds which had been used for storage. Now it has been transformed into the home for one of the new electronic generation of companies, Cambridge Interactive Systems. The old building has been restored with a modern office block clad in mirrored glass and an artificial pool where the real river once ran. Now computer chips perform their electronic miracles in air-conditioned silence in the same place where cogs once slowly turned as they ground the corn. 87 05 07

1988 02 17

Three new railway stations at Cherry Hinton, Fulbourn and the Chittering area have been suggested in a County council report. But stations at Harston, Offord and Soham have been rejected on grounds of cost. British Rail plans to build a new 'parkway' station to the north of Cambridge to meet growing commuter passenger growth. But calls to re-open the Cambridge to St Ives freight line to passengers are firmly ruled out. It would cost £4.84 million, greatly outweighing potential income, consultants say 88 02 17

1986 06 25

Harston former school houses Hammond Grand electric organ – 88 06 25a